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THE אֶמְקָא SHEKEL



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AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

The AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is a cultural and educational organization dedicated to the study and collection of the numismatic aspects of Israel's coinage, past and present. It is a democratically organized, membership oriented group, chartered as a non-profit association under the laws of the State of New York.

As an educational organization, the primary responsibility is the development of programs, publications, meetings and other activities which will bring news, history, technical, social and related backgrounds to the study of numismatics. Membership is open to all men of goodwill and to clubs who share the common goals of the Association.

The Association is the publisher of THE SHEKEL, a six times a year journal and news magazine prepared for the enlightenment and education of the membership. It neither solicits or accepts advertising, paid or unpaid. Its views are the views and opinions of the writers and the pages and columns are open to all who submit material deemed by the editors to be of interest to the members.

The Association sponsors such major cultural/social/numismatic events as an annual Study Tour to Israel, national and regional conventions and such other activities and enterprises which will benefit the members. Dues are paid annually at \$8.00 per year; life memberships are offered to all at \$125.00 per year. Your interest and participation will be welcomed by any of the affiliated clubs or as a general member of the Association.

The Editor's Drawer

These have been several hectic weeks for your editor. Between the Greater Miami Coin Convention, A.I.N.A. executive board meetings, editing the SHEKEL, and running my own business, there have not been many free moments.

Mel Wacks, editor of the AUGUR, the newsletter of the Biblical Numismatic Society, has given us reprint courtesy to their publication. We are grateful to Mel for this permission, and have made use of it in this issue. Coin World did the same for us as well.

The Jabotinsky article was taken from the newsletter of the INS of Illinois. There are good writers among the membership of A.I.N.A., well informed people on many various subjects. The SHEKEL urgently needs numismatic articles for its pages. I am willing to work with any budding author who needs assistance or encouragement.

See you next issue.

E.S.

EDWARD SCHUMAN, *Editor*

NUMISMATIC CONSULTANTS IN ISRAEL

ELI SEMMELMAN

SAMUEL MATALON

SAMUEL LACHMAN

DOV GENACHOWSKI

TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page
The President's Message	2
Exhibit Contest Jerusalem International Numismatic Meeting	3
Biography — <i>Edith Levine</i>	3
Another Mauritius Substitute Shekel <i>by Jack H. Schwartz</i>	4
Vladimir Jabotinsky <i>by Dave Schechter</i>	5
Cyprus Canteen Chits <i>by Sidney L. Olson</i>	8
Mutilated Mandate 20 Mil Coins <i>by Edward Schuman</i>	10
In Memoriam — <i>Sydney Bluestone</i>	11
Egyptian Coinage Used in Palestine 1917-1927 (Part 1) <i>by Samuel Lachman, Haifa</i>	12
Israel's Patterns, Trial Pieces & Rejected Designs (A Series) <i>by Sylvia Haffner</i>	16
1st Greater Miami Coin Convention	18
Jewish Magicians Tokens <i>by Edward Schuman</i>	22
1978 Peace Dollar	24
1978 New Hanukka Coin	25
The First Israel Numismatic Society Medal <i>by Harry Flower</i>	26
New Israel Five Pound Trade Coin <i>by Samuel Lachman, Haifa</i>	27
Coins of Ancient Israel <i>by David Hendin</i>	28
The Aleph Beth Page <i>by Edward Janis</i>	29
A Paradox on Currency Exchange <i>by Harry A. Franck</i>	31
Trilingual Hever One Mil Bus Token <i>by Shmuel Matalon, Tel Aviv</i>	32
Soldier Records History on Coin <i>by Sylvia Haffner</i>	33
Purpose and Use of The Shekel Medals <i>by Prof. Bruno Kisch</i>	34
Tokens Mark "Colony That Became Town" <i>by Samuel Matalon</i>	35
The Money Changers <i>by Mel Wacks</i>	36
American-Israel Numismatic Assoc., Inc. Financial Position 6/30/78 ..	Inside Back Cover
Future AINA Events	Outside Back Cover

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President's Message

Dear Members:

It is my pleasure to announce that we have just completed a series of meetings in New York, Miami, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Montreal and Boston. These meetings were important for all concerned as we redefined and confirmed the relationship between IGCM and AINA. We have now established a formula for continued cooperation in the field of Israel numismatics.



Mr. Eliezer Shiloni, the new director-general of IGCM, was most generous. IGCM will assist AINA financially to promote a new and more expanded educational program and to increase the depth and scope of our numismatic magazine, *The Shekel*. We have agreed in principal on a formula whereby AINA will assist its members in obtaining new issues of coins and medals. In addition, IGCM will assist AINA in the field of computerization. This is a field in which they have a great deal of expertise and are willing to share it with AINA. The Executive Board and the Officers of AINA were quite pleased with the results of our meetings. We can only foresee a continued harmonious relationship with IGCM.

Plans for the tour to Israel are now in full swing as Morris and Lena Bram are getting ready to head the new 1979 tour. You will be receiving promotional literature on this tour. We are limited in number; therefore please make your reservations as soon as possible. Remember — simultaneously with the tour will be the Jerusalem International Numismatic Meeting. All members of the tour are cordially invited to attend these meetings while in Jerusalem.

By careful planning, your officers are now taking advantage of our special non-profit mailing privilege. We are so scheduling our mailings that most of them can be mailed with *The Shekel*, thereby cutting our addressing and stationery costs as well as benefiting from the low non-profit bulk mailing rates. This should cut our mailing costs this year between 50-60 percent, which will help us manage with our reduced budget for 1978-1979.

To assist our Clubs in obtaining new members and for the Club memberships to know what the Club are doing, we are inaugurating starting January 1st, the AINA Club Bulletin which is a four-page report that will be sent to every member of AINA. This Bulletin will list all pertinent Club news and information. The space devoted to this information in *The Shekel* will now be used for numismatic educational purposes. We are grateful to Donna Sims for this service to our organization as Bulletin editor.

Our advertising program for new members is proving quite successful. We are still hoping for additional assistance from our members in obtaining new members for AINA. You recently received a form by which you would benefit by bringing in two new members. Please assist AINA by increasing its membership.

I am pleased to report that the Greater Miami Coin Convention was very successful. It included very many interesting numismatic programs and all who attended enjoyed themselves. I wish to thank all of the participants for assisting AINA by making this Miami Convention a great one. My special thanks to World Coin News for their special edition on the convention.

Sincerely,

Arnold H. Kagan

EXHIBIT CONTEST FOR THE JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATIC MEETING MARCH 11th thru MARCH 15th, 1979.

This is to advise all members that there is a contest for exhibits which will be sent to Jerusalem, and be shown at the Jerusalem International Numismatic Meeting. All exhibits that are shown will receive a letter attesting to the fact that the exhibit had been displayed at this convention. The best exhibits will win awards. Exhibits will be selected as follows:

- First place winners of exhibits at major AINA Conventions during the past three years will automatically be invited to submit exhibits.
- Anyone who is a member of the tour to Israel in 1979 will be offered the opportunity to submit an exhibit at the Meeting.
- AINA will select ten exhibits which it will ship on behalf of the exhibitor for display at the Meeting. Each area vice-president will arrange for an exhibit contest in his respective area and will work with clubs in his area to select the best exhibit.

Arrangements will then be made to have these exhibits taken to Jerusalem for exhibition.

The following are the rules pertaining to the exhibits. It will have to cover the field of numismatics. It must not have a value in excess of \$1,000, and the reason for this is that AINA will only be responsible for that amount in the event of loss. However, all necessary security measures will be taken to make sure the exhibit is well-protected, but the limitation of value is \$1,000 and the participant must agree to that. The exhibit must be able to fit into a display case size 20" x 40" x 3" (approx.) high.

For those members who wish to submit exhibits but cannot send them or make arrangements for their area vice-president to see, pictures and a description will suffice as the area vice-president will then use that to judge the exhibit.

Each area vice-president will select at least two other people in his area to assist him in making his selection of the best exhibit.

Deadline date for submission of exhibits will be January 30, 1979, or sooner as determined by each area vice-president.

BIOGRAPHY-Edith Levine

Our new Office Administrator, Edith Levine and her husband, George, relocated from Long Island to Boca Raton, Florida about five years ago. Instead of relaxing, soon after arrival in Florida, Edith was once again behind a desk, this time as Recorder for the Board of Adjustment, a quasi judicial city board for the City of Boca Raton. After two years and disillusioned with local politics, she left that position. Soon, after a short hiatus, she was recommended to Mr. Kagan to run the AINA Florida office. Her previous business experience was quite extensive, including 10 years as secretary to the purchasing agent of a large toy manufacturer; 2 years as secretary to the mileage administrator of the U.S. Army Engineers on Wall Street, N.Y.C.; 11 years for the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District., Plainview, L.I., 4 of those years in the administration



EDITH LEVINE

business office and 7 years as secretary to school administrators. With 25 years of office experience to her credit, Edith is not content to "sit in the sun" but chooses instead to dedicate her energies for the good of AINA. She offers her assistance to all officers, directors, and members, and wants them to feel that she is as close to them as their telephone.

Another Mauritius Substitute Shekel

By JACK H. SCHWARTZ

The article Maier Kamilla's Substitute Shekel in the September-October 1978 issue of the Shekel was read with great interest. I would like to add a little more mystery to this unusual subject.

The Mauritius substitute Shekel in my collection was obtained from an Israeli collector some six or seven years ago. At that time it was included amongst various Judaic material I had purchased. It remained these years as an added item until the article was published.

There are several differences between both these paper Shekels. The one I have is dated 1944-5704. It is made out for the sum of 20 Indian Rupees instead of in British Sterling. And there is a misspelling of the word substitute. Otherwise the paper, the size, the wording on the reverse are all of similar status.

The most unusual coincidence is the name to whom this Shekel is made out. It is the same Maier Kamilla as in the earlier article. However this coincidence can probably be explained. Both of these Shekels at one time must have reposed side by side together. They must have been from the same source originally, and have been saved from destruction at the same time.

We have been advised by Mr. Nahum Hacohen of the Israel Government Coins and Medals office in New York that the word Maier could also be a man's name. So Maier Kamilla, be you Mr. or Ms. where are you? We are glad that you did not redeem your substitute Shekels. Now also if a 1943 issue of the Mauritius Substitute Shekel will surface, we could illustrate the complete set.

ZIONIST WORLD ORGANISATION



5702

NR: 550

NAME: Maier Kamilla

DATE: 11. VIII. 42 AMOUNT: 15 £

Ilka Samstag

SUBSTITUTE SHEKEL MAURITIUS

ZIONIST WORLD ORGANISATION



No: 274

5704

Amount: Rs-20

Name: Maier Kamilla

Date: 4. VI. 1944

Collector: Ilka Samstag

SUBSTITUTE SHEKEL MAURITIUS

VLADIMIR JABOTINSKY

By DAVE SCHECTER

VLADIMIR JABOTINSKY was undoubtedly one of the most interesting and forceful Jews to illuminate the scene of Jewish history in the 20th Century. Born in Odessa in 1880, he early in life found himself involved in many of the problems that plagued the Jewish people. If there is any one thing that can be said about this man, it is that he was a non-conformist. Although connected with a number of groups that were established to help the Jewish people, he was from the very beginning, noted for his disagreement with many of their methods. He was a "bull in the china shop" and broke away from many of the traditional Jewish groups to establish splinter factions, many of whom in the long run, proved to be right.

In World War I, he founded the Jewish Legion and as head of the Betar movement was the inspiration to many thousands of Jewish youth. His policies were always notorious for not being popular with the "older school" of Jewish politicians. He was an accomplished orator and linguist, fluent in half a dozen languages and he practiced both his speech and writing, in a most effective manner. As a youth, he had very little connection with Jewish tradition. At 18, he went to Bern and Rome where he became a disciple of the doctrine of socialism. While there, he served as local correspondent for two Odessa newspapers, writing both in Russian and in Yiddish. But, after seeing the excesses of the Bolshevik Revolution, he radically revised his attitude towards socialism as an economic concept.

When in the spring of 1903, the danger of a pogrom in Odessa seemed imminent, he joined a Jewish self-defense group. After the Kishinev pogrom, he immersed himself in Zionist activities and became a delegate to the 6th Zionist Congress. Here, he fell under the influence of Theodore Herzl with his idea of a Jewish State, although he disagreed with Herzl as to where it should be located (Herzl suggested Uganda). He felt that it had to be no place other than Eretz Yisrael. Under

From the Series

The Medallic History of the Jewish People



V. Jabotinsky

the aegis of the World Zionist Organization, he went to Constantinople in 1909 as editor of four different language publications (Turkish, French, Hebrew and Ladino). This though, did not last very long. All too soon his independence asserted itself and a disagreement on policy with the President of WZO caused him to resign.

At the outbreak of World War I, he was sent to western Europe as a roving correspondent for a Moscow liberal daily. When Turkey declared war on the Allied Powers, he was convinced that the breakup of the Ottoman Empire was imminent. He fought with WZO to get it to change its neutral stand in order to achieve what he saw must be its aims in Palestine after the end of the war. In Alexandria, together with Joseph Trumpeldor, he advanced the idea of a Jewish Legion, as part of the British Army, to be recruited from among the thousands of Jewish deportees from Palestine, as a force to help liberate Eretz Yisrael from the Turks.

The first result was the establishment of the Zion Mule Corps which took part in the Gallipoli campaign. He then went to Rome, Paris and London to plead the cause of a full fledged Jewish Legion but met with no sympathy, even from the official Zionist leadership who insisted on maintaining their neutrality and condemned his "legionist" propaganda.

But, in 1917 the British government

agreed to the establishment of three Jewish units, which were later consolidated into the First Judean Regiment. The insignia of this regiment was the Menorah. At the time, the British considered this an adequate solution to the problem of the many Jewish immigrants in East London who were Russian nationals and could not be drafted into the British Army though they refused to return to Russia and serve in the czar's army.

"HEBREW BATTALION JUBILEE" MEDAL



This uniface medal was presented at a gathering, to the members of the Hebrew Battalion who fought in World War I.

Metal: Cupro-nickel;

Diameter: 25 mm; **Edge:** Plain-looped.

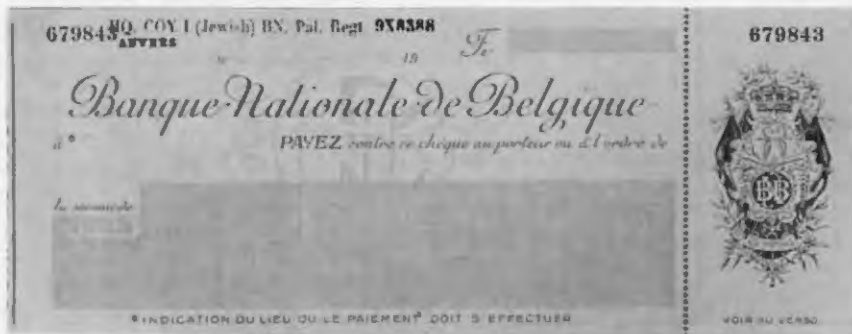
Obverse: On the top, the numeral "50" with the dates of the anniversary "1917-1967" beneath; below, three emblems, the Menora to the left, the emblem of the battalion to the right, and the Star of David underneath; around the bottom rim, in Hebrew, "Jubilee of the Hebrew Battalion" with an olive branch on each side.

Vladimir Jabotinsky joined the 38th Battalion as a lieutenant and distinguished himself by heading the first company to cross the Jordan River.

After the war, Jabotinsky insisted on the need to maintain the Jewish Legion in Palestine as a deterrent to an outbreak of Arab hostility (which was en-

couraged by the anti-Zionist policy of the British military). In this, he was not backed up by any other Zionist leaders and the Jewish Legion was dissolved. But, anticipating trouble with Arab extremists, Jabotinsky, in 1920, organized the Hagana in Jerusalem and led it, during the Passover riots of that year, against the mobs urged on by the Grand Mufti. For this, he, together with many others, was arrested by the British and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment in Acre Prison. But a storm of indignation caused the British Commander in Cairo to quash all indictments against him and the others, and they were released. When Jabotinsky left Acre prison, he was a hero to all the sections of the yishuv.

Upon his return to London, he joined the Board of Directors of the Keren Hayesod and later, the Zionist Executive Council and promoted a program that included a demand for the restoration of the Jewish Legion. But his inability to adjust to the delaying tactics of these groups soon led to his resignation from these bodies and in 1923 he decided to form an active group to revise the then Zionist policies. In 1925, in convention, the World Union of Zionist Revisionists elected him President. In the following years he travelled widely, lecturing brilliantly, and drawing into his ideas, ever larger groups of Jews. All this time he was trying to get the WZO to accept his ideas. But in 1931, when the 17th Zionist Congress refused to accept his definition of the "aim of Zionism as the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz Yisrael", he realized that his only alternative was to completely break away from the



Blank Check (circa 1918) 1st Jewish Battalion Palestine Regiment
in collection of Neil Shaefer

older Zionist group and to form an independent instrument of Zionist policy as he saw it.

After Hitler's rise to power in 1933, Jabotinsky proposed a total boycott of Nazi Germany by the Jewish people. This was opposed by the Jewish Agency who formed a "*Friendship*" agreement with the Berlin regime. In 1935, when the Zionist General Council introduced a "*discipline clause*", prohibiting "any independent political activities on the part of its membership", he, in a Congress in Vienna, founded the New Zionist Organization (NZO) with himself as president and with headquarters in London. He independently opened up a "*policy of alliances*" with various European governments interested in solving the problem of their Jewish minorities thru emigration. This policy was opposed by many Jews who feared that it might lead to a recognition of the fact that Jews were not an integral part of the populations of those countries where they resided.

His scheme met with some degree of success in several countries, notably Poland, which was happy to have found a solution to the problem of its Jewish minority.

From 1936 on, "*illegal immigration into Eretz Yisrael*" became a pillar of Jabotinsky's program. This was reinforced by the Arab riots of 1936 and it was then that he established the system of "*underground defense forces*" that originally consisted of the Hagana, the Irgun Zvai Leumi (the Menachim Begin group) and later the splinter group from the IZL, the Stern Group. When World War II broke out, he called for the establishment of a Jewish Legion, and here he was successful. In February of 1940 he sailed for New York to secure additional aid for his Jewish Legion, but in August of that year he suffered a heart attack at a camp near New York City and died.

The writer has not been able to find record of any contemporary medals or other numismatic memorabilia that were issued for Vladimir Jabotinsky.

Bibliography: Encyclopaedia Judaica



Cast Bronze Plaque by Ivan Sors in Jewish Museum, N.Y. 4 3/4" x 6-3/16"

CYPRUS CANTEEN CHITS

By SIDNEY L. OLSON

THE illegal immigration of Jews to Eretz Yisrael began under the Ottoman Rule. From 1882 onward the Turks did not permit Jews from Eastern Europe, with rare exceptions, to settle in Palestine. Notwithstanding, many Jews coming for short visits managed to evade the Turks and stay on.



After the British had taken control of Palestine they were forced by Article 6 of the Mandate for Palestine to fix quotas for the admission of Jews to be admitted to Palestine. With the aid of the strong Zionist movement

the Mandate was circumvented and many Jews managed to slip into Palestine and continue to live there. The various guises and subterfuges that were used by the Jews such as mingling with natives during Maccabiah Games in 1932 and 1935 are too numerous to mention. According to the Peel Commissions Report, there were some twenty-two thousand illegal immigrants from 1932 to 1933.

In May 1939, Britain published the White Paper restricting the immigration to ten thousand per year. During World War II, from Europe, thousands more Jews managed to slip out and into Palestine. After World War II, extremely large

scale operations were resumed by Mossad.

Mossad was the secret arm of the Hagana which assumed among other responsibilities the task of bringing into Eretz Israel the surviving refugees of the holocaust.

Many thousands of Jews were smuggled into Palestine. From August 1946, the British began deporting the clandestine immigrants to detention camps in Cyprus.

Cyprus is an island in the Mediterranean Sea, located about 65 miles west of northern Syria and about 40 miles south of Turkey. The English statesman, Benjamin Disraeli was successful in having Cyprus placed under British administration in 1878. After Herzl had failed in negotiations with the Turks over Eretz Israel in 1900, there were several attempts made to settle Jews in Cyprus. All were unsuccessful. However, Cyprus was a sanctuary for about 500 Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1939. During World War II, the British had fear of a German invasion of the island, and the women and children and the Jews were evacuated.

At one time there were as many as 51,500 in detention camps and during this short period between 1946 and 1948, the establishment of the State of Israel 2,000 children were born in this camp.

During this period (1946 to 1948), 750



ONE SHILLING



TWO SHILLING

of the detainees chosen by their own committee were allowed to enter Palestine every month, the number being deducted from the official immigration quota.

These detention camps were little more than concentration camps. The restrictions were many. For example, the British had a restriction as to what the pay would be for certain labors done in the camp. In no event was anyone allowed to make more than 4 Pounds Sterling per month. Four Pounds per month during this time was less than \$14.00 a month.

To make matters even more difficult, the British authorities did not permit the use of currency or legal tender such as we know it to be. There was a restriction against the use of metal currency because the British feared the inmates could fashion weapons with the copper, nickel or silver. The American Joint Distribution Committee stepped in and negotiated an arrangement whereby they printed and issued paper chits which could only be spent within the compound similar to the monies issued by concentration camps.

The denominations in which these were printed were one shilling, two shillings and five shillings. To make the script look official there were line after line that read continuously (parallel lines of Hebrew) which translated meant the "United American Committee for Assistance". The backing of these chits were guaranteed by the American Joint Distribution Committee.

These notes are extremely rare because all that were in stock at the camps were destroyed when the camps were opened for the release of all the detainees.

The Cyprus Canteen Chits that were held by the detainees were redeemed in Israel once they landed for Israeli currency and then the chits were destroyed.

The study of Cyprus Canteen Chits is really an extension of emergency monies or interim monies that were used in the transition of Jews that had gone through the Holocaust only to find another form of torture waiting for them.

Very few of these chits were retained as mementos. They are considered very rare. The census is unknown.



FIVE SHILLING

Mutilated Mandate 20 Mil Coins

By EDWARD SCHUMAN



The A.I.N.A. tour to Israel has certain unique features which cannot be found on any other tour. This is aside from the fatherly image that the tour founder and leader, Morris Bram projects over the participants, and the fact

that every possible courtesy is extended, and the minutest request looked after.

One unique feature is the miniature coin dealer bourse which materializes around supper time in each hotel the tour beds down at, throughout our stay in Israel. It would certainly appear to the writer that the Israeli dealers must plan at least a year in advance waiting for the tour. Being on the last two trips, I can tell you that everyone has something "rare" to sell. This goes from the airport porter, who in addition to giving



"assistance" to the travelers, also has off center trade coins for sale. I have seen his coin wallet three times, twice upon my arrival, and once on my departure. With the later showing came the words "Buy it now. Next year it will be higher."

Along with these amateurs also come some real sharpies. One part time American dealer was about to purchase a grouping of crisp uncirculated Palestine Mandate notes in the dimly lit anteroom of the King David Hotel when I happened to pass by. When I held these gems up to the light, the telltale creases of years of wear and folds showed through. They were gems, the washing, ironing and starching was almost perfect.

But each evening, the Israeli appear. Some are part-time dealer - collectors, others simply lay people who have read that the American coin collectors are here, and hope to make a profit on whatever they have to sell. Their offerings vary from modern Israel, mint errors, gold, mandate material, and the choice numismatic material such as ancients, silver shekels, and for me, syngraphics and odd ball stuff.



Amongst the booty that I brought back are a trio of 20 mil mandate coins. Certainly not rare, certainly not scarce or expensive. What makes then unusual is that each has been pierced. Not once, but three times in a triangle shaped punch mark, with the piercing being done at each point of the triangle. I was told that these 20 mil coins were cancelled, and thus material for this article.

The cancellations are certainly crude, and resemble mutilations more than cancellations. The prices quoted were so low, that all regular thoughts of bargaining were cast aside. These coins surely were not mutilated to catch a fancy price, because I had seen regular 20 Mil coins that same evening at attractive prices. The story in back of cancellations, which was verified by several of the more experienced and older numismatists whom I spoke to is worthwhile reading.

In March-April of 1948, just prior towards the ending of the British Mandate in Palestine, the Mandate officials began to take the necessary steps to bring its rule of Palestine to an ending. Among these tasks was the disposition of the large amount of Mandate coins which were in circulation. Most all of the coins were accumulated, sorted out by metal, and simply sold to the various scrap

metal smelters who melted them down for the value of the metal they contained. It seems that the Barclay's Bank, which was the official Mandate bank, found themselves holding a rather large number



of 20 mil coins. As it was thought that there would not be sufficient time to make arrangements to dispose of these, the mandatory officials ordered the bank to cancel these coins, thus insuring that they could not pass as coins, and eliminating their use as a currency.

A cancellation device was made by placing three large steel nails into a hardwood board, and hammering the nails through the board. The nails were placed into a triangle position. The board was placed over a coin, the nails were given a blow from a heavy hammer, and presto,

the coin was defaced by having three small holes punched through it. It goes without saying that this method of cancellation could not be very fast, nor efficient.

Nobody knows how many of these coins were cancelled this way, but from the numbers that remain, and the fact that cancellations are known with the triangle slightly in different angles, it is evident that more than one cancellation device was used.

How much of this story is truth, and how much is fiction will never be known. Most Israeli dealers have handled these coins at one time or another, and they are to be found in the collections of the old timers who were contemporary to these times. The small premium asked surely would not pay anyone to manufacture a cancellation die and go around mutilating 20 mil coins today. Though the cancellation die could be had for the cost of three nails and a wooden board. Providing that the duplicator owns a heavy hammer. So I am apt to believe this story of the cancelled 20 mil Palestine Mandate coins. That is, unless a better story is told to me.



The numismatic community of Michigan and the membership of the American Israel Numismatic Association were saddened by the sudden death Sept. 5 of Sydney Bluestone, widely known collector and leader in the field of Judaic numismatics.

Born in Poland, he left that country at the age of one, when his family settled in Windsor, Ontario. A graduate of Wayne State School of Pharmacy, he was a long-time resident of the Detroit, Mich., area.

Mr. Bluestone was a past member of the national board of AINA, and was founding president of the Israel Numismatic Society of Michigan, to which he devoted years of effort; he was active as well in the Michigan State Numismatic Society.

An enthusiastic exhibitor, his displays of Israel's gold coins and medals were often



Sydney Bluestone

highlights of AINA's conventions.

He was founder-president of Sentury Drug Company, a chain with stores all over the middle west. He is survived by his wife Eileen of Southfield, Mich., son Neil, and daughters Michele and Pamela.

An active member of Congregation B'Nei Moshe, Mr. Bluestone's funeral took place there on Sept. 6, in accordance with Orthodox Jewish practice.

The Egyptian Coinage Used In Palestine 1917 - 1927

PART 1

By SAMUEL LACHMAN, Haifa

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

Turkey entered World War I on the side of Central Powers. Great Britain and France declared formally war on Turkey on 5 November 1914. Egypt was declared a British protectorate on 18 December 1914.



SAMUEL LACHMAN

In the beginning of the War, combined Turkish and German forces launched an attack on the Suez Canal, which was repulsed (1 - 10 February 1915). It was followed by the Gallipoli campaign in the same year. After the evacuation of the troops from Gallipoli and a reorganization, the forces in Egypt were renamed Egyptian Expeditionary Force in March 1916. In the later part of 1916, the E.E.F. advanced into Sinai, crossing into Palestine on 9 January 1917, after the action of Rafa. In the spring of 1917 two attempts to capture Gaza failed. On 28 June 1917, Sir Edmund Allenby took command of the E.E.F. The autumn was used for preparations and at the end of October the campaign began, resulting in the occupation of the southern part of Palestine, i.e. approximately up to the Jerusalem - Jaffa line. Jerusalem surrendered on 9 December 1917. General Sir Edmund Allenby made his entry into Jerusalem on 11 December 1917.

The offensive was not continued due to the withdrawal of troops to the Western Front. After the arrival of Empire contingents, the northern part of the country was occupied in September 1918. The armistice with Turkey was signed on 30 October 1918. During all the war, Arab units harassed and engaged Turkish forces in Hejaz, Jordan, and they

reached in the end Damascus together with the E.E.F. (1)

With the occupation of the southern part of the country, the office of a Chief Administrator was created. Brigadier-General G. F. Clayton carried out these duties until 16 April 1918, when he was succeeded by Major-General Sir A. W. Money. Military governors were appointed for four districts, i.e. Jerusalem, Jaffa, Majdal, and Beersheba. In October 1918, the administration of the Occupied Enemy Territory (= O. E. T.) was divided into the O.E.T. South = Palestine, O.E.T. North = the coastal strip to the north, under French administration, and O.E.T.



Fig. 1

East = Jordan, and Syria. Sir A. W. Money was followed in December 1919 by Major-General Sir Louis Bols, who remained in office until July 1920.

In the peace treaty after the war, Palestine became a Mandated Territory administered by Great Britain on behalf of the League of Nations. The Mandate was confirmed on 24 July 1922 at the conference of San Remo. Civil Administration was introduced on 1 July 1920, and the country was placed under a British High Commissioner (1).

Introduction to the Coinage.

The official documents relating to the use of Egyptian coins in Palestine were published in the *Shekel* Vol. XI No. 2 (March/April 1978).

The Egyptian coins used in Palestine have to be divided into the following categories:

- a. *The Coins of Ottoman Egypt, struck after the coinage reform of 1885, until 1916, i.e.*
 1. *The Coins of Abdul Hamid II struck between 1886 and 1909.*
 2. *The Coins of Mehmed V struck between 1910 and 1916.*
- b. *The Coins of Sultan Hussein Kamil dated 1916 and 1917.*
- c. *The Coins of Sultan Fuad dated 1920.*
- d. *The Coins of King Fuad I dated 1922, 1923, and 1924.*

While the Egyptian coinage was the official coinage of Palestine, from the beginning of the occupation until 31 October 1927, there is no proof that all the coins of the above categories actually circulated in Palestine. The Egyptian coins ceased to be legal tender in Palestine on 31 March 1928.

It should be noted that the years, i.e. the regnal years on the coins of Ottoman Egypt, and the actual years on later coins, are in many cases not the years in which the coins were struck. A list showing the dates on which the regnal years of the Ottoman sultans began, is shown below.

The Regnal Years of the Ottoman Sultans.

Year Began Abdul Hamid II Accession:	Year Began Abdul Hamid II (continued)
10 Sha'ban 1283	27 22 November 1901
1 31 August 1876	28 12 November 1902
2 20 August 1877	29 1 November 1903
3 9 August 1878	30 20 October 1904
4 30 July 1879	31 10 October 1905
5 18 July 1880	32 29 September 1906
6 8 July 1881	33 18 September 1907
7 27 June 1882	34 7 September 1908
8 16 June 1883	Abdicated: 6 Rabi al akhri
9 5 June 1884	1327
10 25 May 1885	(27 April 1909).
11 14 May 1886	
12 4 May 1887	
13 22 April 1888	
14 11 April 1889	
15 1 April 1890	
16 21 March 1891	
17 10 March 1892	
18 27 February 1893	
19 16 February 1894	
20 6 February 1895	
21 26 January 1896	
22 14 January 1897	
23 4 January 1898	
24 24 December 1898	
25 14 December 1899	
26 3 December 1900	

The Coins of Ottoman Egypt.

The coins of Ottoman Egypt which became the official coins in Palestine with its occupation, are the coins struck after the coinage reform which took place in Egypt in 1885. The reasons leading to the Egyptian coinage reform are outside the scope of this description (2). The developments of events is recapitulated here, as there are a number of points of interest for the listings of the Egyptian coins used in Palestine.

Already in 1881 a commission was formed to examine the monetary situation in Egypt (3). The political events of 1882 delayed the matter and another commission was appointed on 4 August 1884. The work of the commission took over one year, from 17 August 1884 until 26 September 1885. The proposals led to the decree of 7 Safar 1303/14 November 1885 introducing a new monetary system (4). The new system was based on the gold standard. In addition to the coins mentioned in the decree, the commission suggested a one piastre copper-nickel coin. An order of 11 November 1887 confirmed its fabrication and it was produced following a decision of 14 July 1898. It has been stated that since that time the silver piastre was only minted in order to be distributed at great mariages (5).

The Egyptian government in an order dated 23 November 1885 decreed that the nickel coins should be composed of 25% nickel and 75% copper. A decision of 24 March 1886 laid down, that the bronze coinage was to be composed of 95% copper, 4% tin, and 1% zinc (6).

A number of coins authorized by the law, were never struck. The law mentions 10 and 5 piastres gold coins. These coins served for coin jewelry and were distributed at great ceremonies. They were only struck on demand. No gold 50 and 20 piastres coins were minted.

The silver $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ piastres coins authorized by the law were not struck. They were included in the law, in case the public would not have accepted the copper-nickel coins of the same denominations.

The gold 100 piastres coin was minted only once in 1888 in a quantity of 52,024 pieces. Sometime later the Egyptian government started to withdraw 100 and 50 piastres gold coins (7). On the other hand by an order dated 19 March 1887, the Egyptian government permitted the circulation of British sovereigns, French 20 francs pieces (Napoleons), and Turkish pounds at official rates (8).

Although the Egyptian coins bear the inscription "*struck in Egypt*", after the coinage reform, coins were struck abroad. It is so far not known where the gold 10 and 5 piastres coins of later years were struck.

The following coins were minted:

Gold (875/1000)		
100 piastres	23½ mm	8.500 g
Silver (833½/1000)		
20 piastres	40 mm	28.00 g
10 piastres	33 mm	14.00 g
5 piastres	26 mm	7.00 g
2 piastres	19 mm	2.80 g
1 piastre	16 mm	1.40 g
Copper-Nickel		
1 piastre	23 mm	5.5 g
5 Ochr-el-guerche	21 mm	4.0 g
2 Ochr-el-guerche	18 mm	2.5 g
1 Ochr-el-guerche	14½ mm	1.75 g
Bronze		
½ Ochr-el-guerche	20 mm	3.3 g
¼ Ochr-el-guerche	17½ mm	2.0 g

Tolerance: Gold: 3/1000
Silver 20 and 10 piastres 3/1000,
others 1/100.

The initial coinage and for a certain period thereafter, the coins were minted at Berlin (9). The engraving was the work of the following medallists:

Gold: Obverse Friedrich Wilhelm Kullrich, reverse Emil Weigand.

Silver; and **copper-nickel,** except 1 piastres copper-nickel: Obverse Emil Weigand, reverse Friedrich Wilhelm Kullrich.

1 piastre copper-nickel: Obverse Emil Weigand, reverse Otto Schulz.

Bronze: Obverse and reverse Ahmad Assad Bey under the direction and assisted by Friedrich Wilhelm Kullrich.

According to Yacoub Artin Pasha (10), the silver proof coins, described below, were entirely the work of the medallist Ahmad Assad Bey (Egyptian engraver of Turkish origin). The letter 'W' at the bottom of the obverse of the silver coins struck at Berlin and Bruxelles stands for Emil Weigand (Fig. 3).



FIG. 3

The inscriptions of the coins are in Arabic. All Egyptian coins of this period bear the accession year of the reigning Ottoman sultan and the regnal year, i.e. Abdul Hamid II 1293 H (1876), and Mehmed V 1327 H (1909). The first issued coins show regnal year 10. Abdul Hamid II reigned 33 years, 7 months, 26 days, but coins bearing regnal year 35 were struck (in 1909?). The coins of Mehmed V show regnal years 2, 3, 4, and 6.

In 1885 ten proof coins each, bearing regnal year 9 were struck of the silver, copper-nickel (except the 1 piastre), and bronze coins. The obverse of the silver proof coins is identical with the issued coins, but the reverse is different. The inscription of the reverse reads:

*Justice and equity are
the foundations of the Empire*

(Fig. 1). Below is the inscription "*struck in Egypt 1293*". Above within the inscriptions appears the numeral 9. In addition the edge of the silver proof coins

have the inscription in Arabic: "*May his victory be glorious*", between crescents and stars. (Fig. 2).

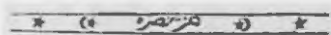


Fig. 2

The proofs of the copper-nickel and bronze coins are identical with the issued coins, with the exception of the 1 Ochr-el-guerche. This proof coin had a diameter of 15½ mm and a weight of 1.5 g. These were changed in view of the similarity with the 1 piastre silver coin. No other proof coins are known to have been struck of these coins.

The issued gold, silver coins and the copper-nickel 1 piastre coin have on the obverse the tughra, flower at right and below the denomination in numerals above the Arabic letter "*sh*". On the reverse at top is the regnal year, below "*struck in Egypt 1293*" (Abdul Hamid II), and on the coins of Mehmed V "*struck in Egypt 1327*". The other copper-nickel coins, and the bronze coins have on the obverse the tughra, and below the regnal year. The reverse of the copper-nickel coins shows in center a large numeral indicating the denomination. Around is the inscription: "*May his victory be glorious ochr-el-guerche year 1293*". The coins of Mehmed V show of course the year 1327. The reverse of the bronze coins has at top "*struck in Egypt*", below in words "*half*" or "*quarter*" "*ochr-el-guerche*". At bottom stands "*year 1293*" (1327). All except the bronze coins have floral ornaments and/or stars around. The gold and silver coins are reeded.

In the following tables, the Berlin mintings are based on Hugo Hammerich's list (11). La Monnaie Royale de Belgique, Bruxelles kindly confirmed the mintings of year 29. The silver coins struck at Berlin and Bruxelles have the engraver's initial 'W' at the bottom of the obverse. The quantities of the Vienna mintings of 1902, 1904, 1905, and 1911, were made available by the Austrian Finance Ministry (12). The regnal years of these mint-

ings were published in 1936 (13). The Vienna mintings have no mint marks.

The coins struck by "*The Mint, Birmingham*", have all the mint mark 'H' (Fig. 4). This mark appears on the silver coins in place of the 'W' on the obverse. On the copper-nickel coins it is at the bottom of the reverse, and the bronze coins have it at the bottom of the obverse. The records of "*The Mint*" Birmingham, were destroyed in World War II, thus the mint could not furnish particulars about the mintings. The quantities appear in the 'Annual Reports' of the Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Mint, London.



FIG. 4

The tables show the mintages and the regnal years to which they should belong, but for the latter particulars no reference is available. Although Egypt was declared a British Protectorate on 18 December 1914, the coins of Ottoman Egypt, with the tughra of the sultan, continued to be struck at Birmingham until 1916. It is of course possible that the coins were ordered before the Protectorate was declared.

A number of coins bearing years before 29 are known, which were not struck at Berlin, Bruxelles, or Vienna. It is so far not known, where they were minted. The minting of bronze coins in 1895 at Bruxelles, reported by Wayte Raymond (14), was not confirmed by the Royal Mint of Belgium. The London Mint Report of 1895 mentions the striking of 100 328 coins of 1 ochr-el-guerche and of 30 118 coins of ½ ochr-el-guerche, without mentioning the mint or the regnal year. The London Mint Report of 1908 states that in that year no Egyptian coins were struck. The coins listed without particulars of mint and mintage figures are in the writer's collection. An additional number of such coins are listed in the Standard Catalog of World Coins, but they have so far not been seen by the writer.

To Be Continued

Israel's Patterns, Trial Pieces and Rejected Designs *(A SERIES)*

By SYLVIA HAFFNER



SYLVIA HAFFNER

25 MILS

THE scene is a small cutlery factory on Derech Beit Lechem in Jerusalem. The year is 1948. The Finance Ministry had ordered coins for the new State from the Metal Division of the Imperial Chemical Industries in Birmingham, England. The expected delivery was spring of 1949. A desperate need for small change was becoming critical. The small cutlery factory was selected because their basic metal used was dura aluminum, along with silver-plated cutlery. An improvised press was set up in a small

area fenced off from the rest of the factory and watched over by a government official and armed guards. The equipment was so inferior that the strikes were very poor and production was extremely slow.

This story was told me the first time I visited in Israel in 1968. The coin press struck two coins at a time and also punched out the planchets . . . this was all done manually. The scrap aluminum from the factory was picked up off the floor and brought to the 1st Israel Mint, over in the corner protected by chicken wire. Can you imagine the condition of the scrap aluminium? Now you know why it is almost impossible to get a brilliant uncirculated 1948 25 mils. All of the aluminum was scratched or full of abrasions hence the poor quality of the coins. The Government was so greatly disappointed in the results they decided not to release the coins. But when the demand for small change became urgent, they were finally put into circulation supposedly temporarily, all dated 1948.

UNIFACE TRIAL STRIKE — 1948



The 1948 25 Mils has been found in a uniface strike of the reverse with a blank obverse. The dies were tested each time they were replaced and they had to be removed daily for security reasons. Some sources state that they were struck through error when the guards had removed one die during lunch time and failed to replace it when production started up again. As the story continues, the guard then gathered up the uniface strikes, put them in his pocket so no one would know of the mistake and took them home. Later to find their way on the numismatic market.

Some counterfeits are known. Look for polishing on the blank side which is always easily discernible. The original uniface strike will have a few small raised beads on the obverse. These coins never saw circulation but cannot be found in brilliant uncirculated condition but in the usual scratched condition with many abrasions.

An estimation as to the number of existing specimens would be pure conjecture. While living in Israel we took a poll of all of the Israeli dealers who had handled the coin and came up with approximately 185 specimens. Others were probably handled by collectors in Israel as well.

Early in 1949, it was decided to try and strike the coins again, for the new coins had still not arrived from England. But this time they decided that they would be struck with a better metal than aluminium. The factory struck a few trial pieces in brass, copper, bronze and an alloy similar to pewter, to test the possibility of switching to one of the new metals. With the difficulties of a full-scale war in progress it was found that not enough brass or copper or bronze or pewter would be available to strike the coins in any quantity. The idea was discarded and the 25 Mils dated 1949 were struck again in the duro-aluminum used in the factory.

When it was decided to strike the coins in aluminum, the pattern or trial pieces that had been struck were cut into pieces and thrown into a box similar to a cigar box. Some of course were thrown out with the other scrap pieces and some of them went into the pockets of the workers. Those shown here escaped the shears or didn't make it into the cigar box and are in the hands of collectors.

TRIAL PIECES IN BRONZE — 1949



BRONZE OBVERSE



BRONZE REVERSE

It seems for all practical purposes that the best metal for the 25 mils would have been bronze, but the availability of copper, zinc and tin was not possible in quantities during that crucial year. The photos of the two cut-up pieces struck in bronze would not indicate the character of the strike as these two pieces seemed to have been carried as pocket pieces and are quite worn. The two pieces show that there were at least two coins struck in bronze.

TRIAL PIECE IN PEWTER — 1949



PEWTER

This is the only known specimen in pewter and at this time have not located any cut-up pieces. Notice the shallow strike. This piece was also used as good-luck charm and carried as a pocket-piece along with the bronze cut-ups.

1st Greater Miami

The 1st Greater Miami Coin Convention, sponsored by A.I.N.A. and held in conjunction with the convention of the American Israel Numismatic Association proved to be quite successful.

The 90 dealers who supported this first show were helped by an upsurge in value, and brisk business was achieved by most of them. The auction by Royal Enterprises proved highly successful, some record prices were obtained, and most of the lots went to the floor bidders rather

than to the book. The educational forum moderated by Sidney L. Olson, and featuring Margo Russell, Eva Adams and Edward Janis was well attended and quite interesting.

The sixty cases of numismatic exhibits were of fine quality and the Best in Show Award, the Maurice M. Gould Memorial Award was won by Sidney L. Olson with his display of Kibbutz Script and Shekem notes.



FLORENCE & ED SCHUMAN



KAGAN, SHILONI, JANIS, BRAM



HARRY FLOWER, LENA BRAM



JACK GARFIELD

i Coin Convention

The Saturday evening Banquet was attended by 170 people, and heard A.I.N.A. President Arnold Kagan, Board Chairman Morris Bram, and Mr. E. Shiloni, new Director of the IGCM speak briefly.

Special thanks were given by General Chairman Edward Schuman to Jack Garfield, Bourse chairman, Ed and Evelyn Sponder who covered registration, Dr. Maxwell and Betsy Greenhouse who handled the message center, Rosita Ross, dealer hospitality, Aaron Sackheim, who

helped at the A.I.N.A. booth, Milt and Connie Beresh, Exhibits, David Rosenthal, the postal cachet, the set up and break down crew, Julius Garfield, Joe Flack, Clyde Godfrey, and everyone else responsible for this tough task. Security was supervised by Col. Holbrook and Bill Tucker, and Mickey Apostolis was the girl Friday. Most important, the bottom line figures will be in the Black reports convention treasurer Florence Schuman, and thus a good time was had by all, and A.I.N.A. has benefited.



SHILONI, SCHUMAN, KAGAN



AT THE BANQUET



INS OF GREATER MIAMI TABLE



SIDNEY L. OLSON



ED & HILDA JANIS

TRIAL PIECES IN BRASS — 1949



Diameter: 30 mm

BRASS — 25 MILS
Weight: 9.4 gm

Thick: 1.3 mm

The specimen shown here is the only brass 1949 25 mils that was not destroyed by cutting into small pieces. It has been stated that only three trial pieces were ever struck in brass and the other two were cut up. Also shown here are several pieces from the cut-up specimens. In both instances you will note that the "25" shows clearly but cut at different locations.



BRASS — Cut-up

UNIFACE TRIAL PIECES IN LEAD — 1949

Here are two examples of extraordinary mint trial pieces struck on an irregular shaped flan cut from a sheet of lead that was $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch thick. These two trial impressions in lead were evidently from the same strip and most likely were both struck within moments of one another. These were undoubtedly the first impressions struck from a new die because of the softness of lead, and were later followed by trial strikings in the harder metals of brass, copper and bronze. (Note that this is the "open link" variety of the 1949 25 mils.) There have only been four strikings known today in lead and two are shown here.



LEAD STRIKE

TRIAL PIECES IN COPPER — 1949



COPPER OVERSE



COPPER REVERSE



COPPER — Cut-up

An uncut specimen in copper is unknown today and very few pieces have appeared other than those shown here. Three of the pieces show the denominations which indicates at least three specimens were struck in copper, on the one photograph. On the second photograph an additional copper 25 Mills is shown cut into four segments with some pieces missing. From these photos, supplied by collectors we now know there are at least four coins struck in copper and destroyed by cutting them into pieces.

ALUMINUM SHEETING TRIAL STRIKES — 1949

These are the only specimens that I have seen at this time. Others may exist. Please note the scratches and abrasions on the sheet itself. Both strikes are of the "open link" variety, believed to be the first dies of the 1949 series. Also note how sharp the detail is and was apparently made in early 1949, to test the new dies for durability after being annealed and polished.

Photos on Front Cover

Jewish Magicians Tokens

By EDWARD SCHUMAN

One of the unusual tangents of numismatics is that of magician tokens and medals. There is so very little knowledge published that the collector's interest really has not been aroused sufficiently on this subject. Magician tokens are often found in the dealers' junk boxes, and amongst the odd ball tokens and medals accumulations which are often put up by those who specialize in the mall type coin shows and such. There are also dealers in exumonia that carry these items.

Certainly there were magicians in Ancient Judea and the surrounding areas. Feats of illusion and slight of hand are recorded on Egyptian papyrus. To keep their hold over the ignorant, many priests of various cults or religions often used magic. With the rise of Christianity, the practice of magic was curtailed because magic and witchcraft were punished by torture, burning at the stake and death. Many readers will recall the Salem witchcraft times from American History, and this lasted till the later part of the 18th century.

The city of Budapest, Hungary was the birthplace of one of the foremost magicians of the world. Eric Weisz was born in 1874, the grandson of a Rabbi, and the son of a Rabbi. The family emigrated to the United States where his father took up the post of religious leader of a congregation in Appleton, Wisconsin. When the family moved to New York,



BRONZE PLAQUE

By I. Sors

Eric Weisz changed his name from Eric to Harry, and took the last name of Houdini in admiration of the great french magician Robert Houdin.

As a youth, he performed in numerous circuses and traveling carnivals, and was soon one of the most sought after entertainers of his day. He was a master performer whose expert knowledge of mechanics gained him the reputation of the world's foremost escape artist.



Medal issued on the 100th anniversary of Houdini's birth by the Society of American Magicians and the Franklin Mint.



Palming and advertising tokens.

Houdini's fame was as an escape artist. He repeatedly released himself from chains and handcuffs, ropes and shackles while suspended head down in tanks of water, buried alive, or thrown into a half frozen river. His ability to survive his death-defying acts depended on his knowledge of locks, ability to control his breathing and of course strict determination and timing.

Houdini achieved international fame by escaping from Scotland Yard in 1900. Jails and safes were child's play to him. He assisted members of Scotland Yard and the Moscow Police Department, demonstrating his skills, to the point while in Russia in 1903, easily breaking out of a Russian escape-proof police van. He was the highest paid and most popular performer of his time, performing in theaters all over the United States and Europe.

He died in Detroit, Michigan in 1926. His library on magic, spirits and witchcraft was bequeathed to the Library of Congress in Washington.

Magicians' tokens serve several uses. Advertising tokens of magicians were often tossed into the audience. The tokens were used in slight of hand tricks and illusions. No doubt many were passed out by the same magicians they advertise. Many are of size to indicate they were used in palming illusions, and magical supply houses offer several types of these tokens to be used in such manner.

The three greatest modern day magicians, the "immortals" were Harry Kellar, Howard Thurston, and Harry Houdini. They are the obverse of a magician coin issued by a dealer in magical supplies. The reverse shows a hand of cards, each with a letter spelling out the name Louis Tannen, who was a New York dealer in magical supplies.

The tokens and medals of Harry Houdini are Judaic items because of his birthright, and are collectible Judaica, and thus can be published in the *Shekel*. He has been memorialized in several modern medallion series of famous Jewish personalities, in addition to the magician tokens.

Bound copies of THE SHEKEL, for years 1976 and 1977 Volume IX and X are available in very limited amounts. Covered in Blue Buckram, Gold Stamped similar to those of the past years. Price \$12.50 Postpaid.

1978 Peace Dollar



The signing of the two Camp David Peace Agreement Frameworks by Presidents Carter and Sadat, and Prime Minister Begin is undoubtedly the most important step towards peace in the Middle East taken this century! It is appropriate that a museum, named after an educator and humanitarian who devoted twenty-five years of his life to the cause of Jews and Arabs living together in peace in the Holy Land, has authorized a unique commemorative for the occasion. The Judah Magnes Museum will counterstamp a maximum of 978 Brilliant Uncirculated United States "Peace" Dollars (issued from 1921-1935) in the center of the reverse. The counterstamp will be about the size of a dime, and consists of a modern peace symbol containing the names of the three Camp David participants plus a symbol of each country — five pointed star for the U.S., six pointed Star of David for Israel, and a crescent for Egypt; surrounding is the inscription "Camp David Peace Summit Sept. 5-17."

The counterstamping is being expertly executed by Ed McClung so as not to effect the rest of the design of this classic American coin which is rapidly becoming a rarity in its own right. The design was created by Mel Wacks, Numismatic Consultant to the Magnes Museum.

Each of the Magnes Museum's "1978 Peace Dollars" will come in a handsome protective clear display stand. The edition is strictly limited to only 978 pieces, with the first three coins being presented to the three leaders who, in the words of President Carter, "have had the courage and wisdom to make this significant achievement in the cause of peace."

The price of the "1978 Peace Dollar" is \$27.50 each postpaid, half of which can be considered as a tax-deductible contribution. Orders should be sent to the Magnes Museum, c/o Mel Wacks, 5189 Jeffdale Avenue, Woodland Hills, CA 91364. Please allow 30 days for delivery.

The 1978 New Hanukka Coin

Plans have been finalized at the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation (IGCMC) for this year's Hanukka coin. Specimens of this series have been minted for many years, invariably featuring reproductions of the lamps, used by different Jewish communities on that festival.



Hanukka, celebrated in the middle of the winter, marks the Maccabeans' victory, more than two thousand years ago, over Hellenistic oppressors. One of the major issues, at that time, was Freedom of Religion; some Hellenistic rulers violently opposed monotheism, and demanded to be adored in their own, far from attractive personalities.

Among the central rituals of Hanukka is the lighting of candles in an eight-branched candelabrum — one additional candle on each succeeding evening, until all eight are lit on the last day of the festival. Such candelabra were treasured objects in all Jewish communities.

This year's coin will depict such a lamp, made by an unknown Jewish artist in 14th century France. Earlier issues had shown lamps from the colonial United States, Morocco, Italy and other countries.

For the first time, the coin will be minted this year with a face value of IL25, reflecting the continuing process of inflation. Until 1973, nominal values were fixed at IL5, since then at IL10.

The coin will be minted, as last year, in 34 mm diameter cupro-nickel both in BU and in Proof condition. The BU will be struck at the Government Mint in Jerusalem from dies made by Kretschmer & Sons. The PROOF coins will be struck at the Royal Canadian Mint.

In line with IGCMC's policy, these coins will be offered to all subscribers, until a cut-off date still to be announced. The number to be minted thus will be fixed by actual demand.

It is hoped that the coins will be available in time for Hanukka. A.I.N.A. members may order directly from the A.I.N.A. office, or through their local Israel Numismatic Society. An order form is enclosed with this issue of the Shekel for those who wish to order through the A.I.N.A. office.



The BU is priced at \$5.00 each. The Proof is \$10.50 ea. Shipping and handling charges are included in the selling price.

The First Israel Numismatic Society Medal

By HARRY FLOWER



The formation of new Israel Coin Clubs in the United States and in other countries has been on the increase in recent years. Some of these clubs have issued medals or tokens to commemorate an anniversary or a special event. The collecting of *"Israel Coin Club Medals and Tokens"* is now a popular branch of Judaic Numismatics.

The first Israel Coin Club was *The Israel Numismatic Society* of Israel that was organized in 1945. In 1965, this group issued the first Israel Coin Club Medal to commemorate their 20th anniversary.

This attractive medal was designed by Arie Kindler and Alisa Samir-Klimowsky and was struck by S. Kretschmer and Sons, Jerusalem. There were 300 struck in copper (24.5 grams, 35 mm) and only 12 specimens in silver (27.45 grams, 35 mm). Both types have plain edges, except that the silver medals are hall-marked on the edge.

In the center of the obverse, in large numerals "1945" and just below "1965";

also in two lines, the corresponding dates in Hebrew. Curved below around the bottom half of the medal, *"The Israel Numismatic Society"*; this same legend curved above in Hebrew.

The reverse of the medal is divided into two equal semicircles by a horizontal line. The top half, which has a glossy finish, features the emblem of the Israel Numismatic Society, a reduced reproduction of a Bar-Kokhba bronze coin showing a palm tree and the Hebrew word for Jerusalem. On the lower frosted section, there are two lines of writing; in English "20 Years" and the same just above in Hebrew.

The above copper medal is considered to be very scarce. It is very desirable for the general Judaic collector and is a "must" for the collector of Israel Coin Club Medals. Occasionally, one of these may appear in a major numismatic auction. As for the silver edition, it is rare. These were used for presentations; this collector has never seen a silver specimen offered for sale. It is a fortunate collector that has both the copper and silver.

New Israel Five Pound Trade Coin

By SAMUEL LACHMAN, Haifa

A new Israel five pound trade coin was placed into circulation on 21 September 1978, to replace the five pound banknote. The banknotes remain in use until existing stocks are exhausted.



The coin is of copper-nickel (25% nickel, 75% copper) and has a diameter of 30 mm. The weight is 11.250 g, with individual coins up to 0.025 g above and below the due weight. The edge is plain.

The incuse design is composed of a hexagon. The obverse shows in center a roaring lion. Above is the emblem of the State of Israel. The name of the country in Hebrew appears below. At top left is the name in English, and Arabic. The reverse shows a large numeral "5"

flanked by two stars with eight rays (similar to those appearing on the one pound coin). Below in Hebrew in two lines is: *Lira Yisraeliyot*. At bottom is the year, from right to left: Tav-Shin-Lamed-Heth = 5738 = 1978.

The roaring lion on the obverse of the coin comes from a seal found by the German archeologist G. Schumacher in 1904 at Megiddo. The complete seal appears on the reverse of the Israel five pound banknote of 1958.

The seal is attributed to Jeroboam II b. Yoash, king of Israel, 783 - 743 B.C.E. The original seal was sent to the Ottoman sultan Abdul Hamid II, and has no more been heard of. A bronze replica was however made at that time. The seal has a size of 2.7 x 3.7 cm (elliptical). Above the lion is the inscription in ancient Hebrew letters: *lesham'a*, and below: *'aved Yeroboam*, i.e. the seal belonged to Sham'a, a servant of Jeroboam.

The equivalent of the coin at the day of issue is about 27 US cents.



COINS OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

by David Hendin



Regular readers of this column will remember my report, about a year ago, of my visit to Sepphoris (Zippori) and Dora (Dor). These are two of the "coin cities" of ancient Israel that are off the usual beaten path for tourists.

On our most recent trip to Israel we decided to hunt for a few more of the "coin cities" that we had not yet visited.

First scheduled stop was at ancient Raphia, now Rafah, which stood at the southeastern tip of ancient Judaea. Today Rafah is at the southern part of the Gaza Strip.

We had rented a car and had started out early that morning from Beer Sheva. We headed directly for the Mediterranean coast, which we reached at the new Jewish town Yamit—soon to be returned to Egypt. After a visit to this fascinating new community we went north to Rafah.

Once we found the modern town I figured it would be a cinch to find the ruins. We asked dozens of local Arabs about the "antiquities" at the town. None of them knew what we were talking about. We then asked an Arab policeman, who gave us some vague directions which we followed to no avail. After about the first hour of searching the back streets of this poverty-struck Arab village, my traveling companions began to express distress at the situation. I persisted, however, and we found an Israel army officer and asked for directions. Still vague. We kept hunting, never to find the actual ruins of Raphia. We later learned, however, that very few ruins are actually visible of this ancient city, and we had driven right over them.

Raphia's city coinage began with Commodus (180 A.D.) and ended with Philip I (244-245 A.D.). Since the city was the

seat of worship of Isis and Dionysus, they frequently appear on the coins. An interesting coin of Gordian III carries the image of a Sphinx. This possibly relates to the fact that Raphia was an ancient stopping point before embarking across the desert in caravans for Egypt.



Coin of Raphia, struck under Commodus

The next coin city we tried to visit was Hippos, immediately east of Ein Gev. From Tiberias we drove south around the Sea of Galilee. When we reached the kibbutz of Ein Gev we asked a veteran kibbutz member about the ruins of ancient Hippos, also known as Sussita since the hill on which the town was located was said to look like the back of a horse. He pointed to a hill about two kilometers away. Unfortunately there was no automobile access, and it was already quite late in the day, so we had to content ourselves with a look at Hippos from a short distance away.

Hippos was established by the Seleucids, captured by Alexander Jannaeus, and later re-established by Pompey as a city of the Roman Decapolis. In ancient times Hippos was involved in a

Continued Page 30

The ALEPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. I recently acquired two Roman Procurator coins of Ambibulius who held his office from 9-19 C.E. One is the Mesh 218 and the other is the Mesh 219. I was told that they have different dates. I note no numbers. What are the dates and how does one read them on the procurator coinage?

R.U., Charlotte, N.C.

A. Confining ourselves just to the Palestinian area, we find that many of the minting authorities dated their coinage. The method of reading the dates were covered in the SHEKEL Vol. V No. 2 in 1972. The Ptolemies, the Seleucids, the Jews and many of the City-States or Colonies dated their coinage. Basically, the method used was tying the coinage with a regnal date such as the third, fourth, etc. year of a king's reign, or a significant date of local importance such as a victory in an historic battle or the date of the founding of a city; the visitation of the king etc. The Ptolemies used the Regnal system. We therefore find silver coins of Akko dated the third or ninth year of Ptolemy II reign.

Dated coins under the Jews, first appear under Herod and are dated Year 3. In 40 B.C.E. while in Rome, he was appointed King of the Jews. For the next three years, he waged war against the last of the Hasmoneans, Mattiyah Antigonus and in 37 B.C.E. conquered Jerusalem and became the undisputed King of the Jews. Even though he was now serving as king in this year for the first time, his coins are dated as per the Roman regnal period of his recognition and appointment by Rome three years prior to his actual control of Judaea. After this initial coinage none of his coins

had dates. When he died in 4 B.C.E., all his territories were divided by Augustus to his three sons. They were not kings but ethnarchs. The oldest son, Herod Archelaus, was appointed Ethnarch of Judaea, Samaria, and Idumaea. His coins were not dated. The second son received the tetrarchy of Galilee and Peraea (Transjordan). He ruled for 43 years, and all of his coins have regnal dates starting with his 24 year and continuing until the 43rd year of his rule (39 C.E.). The third son ruled an area that was basically not composed of Jews.

Further examples of the dating on Jewish coins appear on the Shekels of the First Revolt. They are dated from year 1 to year 5. The year one just has an aleph to designate the year. The succeeding years bet, gimme, daled, and hay (2, 3, 4, 5) have a shin (looks like W) which is an abbreviation for Shnat meaning year before these respective dates.

The coins of Bar Kochba are dated and undated. The coins of the first year are dated Shnat Achat Legalat Yisroael (year one of the Redemption of Israel). The year two coins do not spell out the shenat and the formula appears as Sh(nat) b(e)Leher(ut) Yisroael — Y(ea)r two of the Freedom of Israel.

The cities of Tiberias, Quasi-autonomous Caesarea, Diospolis-Lydda, Neapolis, Nysa-Scythopolis, Sabaste, Ascalon, Gaza, Nicopolis, Raphia, Dora and Akko all have dated coinage.

The following chart from Head's Historia Numorum clearly shows how to read the date.

Units	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	A	B	Γ	Δ	E	Ϛ	Z	H	Θ
Tens	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
	I	K	Λ	M	N	Ξ	O	Π	Q
Hundreds	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900
	P	Σ	T	Υ	Φ	X	[Ψ	Ω	Ϙ]

The numerals are usually preceded by an L. This was adopted by the Romans from the Ptolemies who in turn took it from the ancient Egyptians in their papyrus writings to alert the reader that a date was following. Thus on procurator coins, LE would be year 5, and LID would be year 14. In later city coinage, the L is removed and the numbers are

read from right to left so that BT is 302; AKT is 321; AOP is 171. By knowing the starting date of an era, like Ascalon in 104 B.C.E. when the Ascalonians established their independence from all three neighboring powers, the Seleucids, the Jews, and the Ptolemies, we know that the last example of AOP which is 171 is equal to our modern dating system to 67/68 C.E.

Coins of Ancient Israel

Continued from Page 28

constant rivalry with Tiberias, across the Sea of Galilee. The latest city coins of Hippos were struck under Elagabalus (218-222 A.D.).

The last of the cities visited was Sebaste-Samaria. This is not as neglected as the two previously mentioned towns. It lies between Tel Aviv and Schechem (Neapolis), on the West Bank of the Jordan. In recent years there have been an increased number of violent incidents in this area, and so many tourists neglect the place. It should be seen, however.



Struck under Domitian, coin of Sebaste-Samaria.

The ruins of ancient Sebaste-Semaria, the biblical Shomron, sits on a strategic hill that holds magnificent views of Judaea. It gives access to Meggido in the north, the coastal plain in the west, and Jerusalem and the Jordan River in the east. No wonder this was the capital of the ancient kingdom of Israel.

Scores of ancient marble columns remain, giving the impression of a kind of ancient parade route. There are also the remains of a magnificent ancient staircase, stadium, and a number of buildings.

In 332 B.C. this city was captured by Alexander the Great, who settled Macedonian soldiers there. In 108 B.C., John Hyrcanus I captured and destroyed the city, converting forcibly its Samaritan residents to Judaism. In 63 B.C. Pompey annexed Samaria to Syria, and a few years later Gabinus also rebuilt the city.

Augustus, in 30 B.C., gave the city of Samaria to Herod I, who named it Sebaste in honor of the emperor. (Sebastos is Greek for Augustus.) Herod built Sebaste into one of the area's most magnificent cities, modeled in the Greco-Roman tradition and topped off with a temple to Caesar Augustus. Josephus says that this temple could be seen gleaming white in the sun from the Mediterranean sea, 20 miles away.

Because of the beauty of the spot and its majestic location, we have no doubt that Josephus was correct.

A PARADOX ON CURRENCY EXCHANGE

Sovereign for Metleeks, Bishleeks

By Harry A. Franck

(In 1910, following a trip around the world, Franck wrote "A Vagabond Journey Around the World," published by the Garden City Publishing Co., Inc., Garden City, New York. An extract from experiences in Beirut, Lebanon, follows.)

When I had paid my bill next morning in the French pension to which I had been directed, my worldly wealth was reduced to one English sovereign. I turned in at the office of Cook and Son and, tossing the piece to the native clerk, asked him to change it into coin of the realm, of small denomination.

He turned the sovereign over several times, bit it, laid it carefully away, and set to pulling out boxes and drawers and dumping the coins they contained on the counter before me. There were pieces of copper, pieces of silver, pieces of bronze, tin, iron, nickel, zinc; coins half the size of a dime, coins that looked like tobacco tags, coins big enough with which to fell an ox, coins with holes in them, coins bent double, saucer-shaped coins, coins that had been scalloped around the edge by some erstwhile possessor of artistic temperament and hours of leisure; and still the clerk continued to pour out coins until I felt in duty bound, as a tolerably honest member of society, to call a halt.

"Say, old man," I put in, "that was only a sovereign I gave you, you know."

"Yes, yes, I know," panted the native, dumping another handful that rattled down the sides of the heap like a bucketful of stones on the pile under a stone crusher, "I know, and I am very sorry I have not enough to change him. But I give you this and he just make him up."

He tossed towards me a gold piece of ten francs.

"What," I cried, "You don't mean that I get that heap and 10 francs besides, for one quid?"

"Aywa, efendee, yes, that makes one

pound," he answered.

I pawed over the heap. Each rake brought to light pieces of new and unique pattern. "Fine collection," I said, "but what's the answer?"

The clerk drew a long breath as if for an extended breath as if for an extended lecture, and picked up one of the tobacco tags: "This," he said, "is a metleek. It is worth 11/12s of a half-penny. Five of these coppers make a metleek — only not quite — that is — here in Beirut — in Damascus five of them make a metleek and a little more.

Ten metleeks make a bishleek —" and he picked up one of the coins the owner of which would be arrested, in a civilized country, for carrying concealed weapons, "one bishleek — that is — except one and a half of these copper coins — that is — here — in Damascus 10 metleeks make a bishleek and four copper — except not quite — and in Sidon they make the same as in Damascus — only a little less — and these coins are worth the same as a bishleek — except not quite — that is — here — if they have a hole in them they are worth a copper and three-fourths — more — that is, here — in Damascus they are worth a copper and one-fourth more, and this dish-shaped one is worth three bishleeks and three metleeks and two coppers and sometimes three-fourths of a copper more, except they with holes in them which are worth two metleeks and a copper and a half more, and this mejeedieh is worth in Damascus seven bishleeks and seven metleeks and two coppers and sometimes three and sometimes here not so much by two and a half coppers and in Jerusalem —"

"And suppose it is a rainy day?"

"Oh, that does not make any difference," said the clerk, with owl-like solemnity, "but sometimes on busy days, as on feast days, the bishleek is worth three coppers and a half more —"

that is, here — in Damascus it is worth two more and sometimes not so much — as in Ramadan, and in Sidon it is worth three-fourths of a copper less and in — here in Beirut —.”

“Now, in carting this around, you don’t hire a porter —?”

“Ah,” said the clerk, “you have not the large purse? Our Syrians carry a purse which is very long, which is long like the stocking which it is said are worn by the lady; but if you have not

such a long purse and you have not any ladies —”

I drew out a large handkerchief and fell to raking the heap of coins into it.

“Ah,” he cried, “that does very good, only you do not forget that in Damascus the mejeedieh is worth seven bishleeks and seven metleeks and two coppers and sometimes —”

But I had escaped into the silence outside.

Courtesy Coin World

Trilingual Hever One Mil Bus Token

By Shmuel Matalon
Tel Aviv, Israel

Tokens have paralleled the history of revival of the Jewish settlement of the Holy Land. Even under Turkish rule, in the 1880’s, tokens are part of our numismatic heritage. One could classify tokens of the Holy Land in three categories: Those issued under Turkish rule; tokens of the British Mandate period; and tokens of the state of Israel.

Most prolific issues in the three periods were paper transportation tokens, particularly during the British Mandate period. When assembled in toto, the transportation tokens form quite a nice numismatic collection.

Recently uncovered has been the token “Please pay bearer one mil” with inscription in Arabic, Hebrew and English. The piece does not bear a serial number, as did later bilingual issues. We would assume the trilingual issue is one of the first of the Hever cooperative.

We know of one and two mil denominations of the later bilingual issue; now we are looking for a two mil denomination of the earlier trilingual piece.



“Ticket for one mil fare,” issued by Hever Cooperative Society Ltd., Haifa, Israel, is written in English and Hebrew



Trilingual paper token, “Please pay bearer 1 mil,” was issued by Hever, the Haifa bus company.

The Judaic Tokens and Medals book printed by A.I.N.A. has already been acclaimed by authorities as one of the most necessary reference works on the subject.

Only 1000 of these books were printed. The A.I.N.A. office has less than 50 of these books in stock. Once they are sold out, the only way to obtain one would

be in the aftermarket, and at considerably advanced prices.

This will be the last reminder for members interested in obtaining this book to order from the A.I.N.A. organization. Price is \$20.00 postpaid. Price valuation list will be included. Original registered book owners will receive periodic price and information upgradings as these become available.

Soldier records history on coin

By Sylvia Haffner



World War I in the Middle East began with the closing of the Suez Canal to the passage of ships flying the flags of nations at war with Great Britain. British troops took up defensive stations on both sides of the Canal.

In January 1915 and in August 1916, the Turkish forces delivered an unsuccessful assault against the Canal. The British forces under General Murray, went over to the offensive. In March 1917, they stood before Gaza. There, however, the British forces suffered defeat and General Murray was recalled and replaced by General Allenby. On October 31, 1917, the British struck at Beersheva, took that important communication center and water supply. On December 11, 1917, the Holy City of Jerusalem was taken without a shot being fired.

The advance stopped, because of the more urgent need for some of Allenby's units on the Western Front. It was September 1918 before the British had been sufficiently reinforced and the

Turkish power had been bled sufficiently on the other fronts to permit Allenby to resume his advance. When the battle was opened again, on September 19, 1918, Allenby had every advantage in numbers and supplies. The Turkish forces were crushed. On October 2, 1918, Damascus fell and after four centuries Ottoman rule was at an end. Palestine remained under military rule until July 1, 1920, when Great Britain took over the civil administration with the British Mandate over Palestine ratified by the League of Nations on September 29, 1923.

Between December 1917 and September 1918, Allenby's soldiers spent their time as an "army of occupation." One particular soldier occupied his free time making the love-token shown here.

When Palestine was captured by the British troops in 1917, a great variety of currency was in use in world trade. Turkish, Egyptian, French, British and Austrian although Turkish coins were more widely used.

Courtesy Coin World

PURPOSE AND USE OF THE SHEKEL MEDALS

by Prof. Bruno Kisch
Reprinted from *Historia Judaica* (1941)

When reading the older numismatic literature one is tempted to believe that shekel medals were struck only to deceive collectors and investigators. In former times many of them, moreover, were actually duped by these objects. But it is certain and demonstrable that the original purpose of their being minted was genuine. The dated shekel medal from the year 1584, or the two shekel medals which bear in Latin letters the initials of their minters or the shekel medal of Prague with the name of the firm that struck it, give excellent proof of this fact.

Above all, there are two motives which, as can be shown, induced gentile mints, even in anti-Jewish times, to use the Jewish shekel as a model for the medals. First, it was to stir up the memory of the era of Jewish independence with which the entire narrative of the Gospels is bound. This aim, in the period of humanism, from which stem the oldest reports on shekel medals, met with the deepest understanding of the broad circles. Second, the shekel medals were to be reminders of the silver coins which were allegedly the reward for Judas Iscariot's treachery. In this sense they were of great interest to the naive masses, who desired at least to see or even possess such a silver coin, probably made familiar to every Christian in religious instruction. The desire was felt as much by secular and ecclesiastical princes, whose treasuries were supposed to preserve such silver coins of Judas as precious relics, as by the masses of people of the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries who went on pilgrimages to the holy tomb. That shekels of this type were used in Sunday schools as specimens for observation is clear from a warning (as late as 1897) against purchasing shekel medals as genuine coins.

O. Sperling believes that the trade in false shekels set in with the Oecumenical Council of Vienne (1311-1312) in an ever increasing volume and is connected with the stimulus given by Pope Clement V to Christian scholars to devote more time to the Hebrew language. Sperling's carried over also in the transcription. It is quite otherwise in de Rossi, where the date, as can be seen, is above the chalice in incorrect type; in the transcription, furthermore, it is entirely omitted. Although de Rossi reads the letters above the goblet as *Shin-Dalet* and incorrectly gives them the meaning "Shekel of David", the figure above the chalice easily might have been taken as a cloud of smoke around the rim. The fact that all later shekel medals instead of a goblet with letters above it, show a smoking chalice, like the similarity in size, speaks for believing their model to be de Rossi's work.



De Rossi's shekel illustration (1573) . . . model for false shekels.

It is striking that no shekel medals with ancient Hebrew letters exist from the sixteenth century. Perhaps this could be explained by the fact that, in those days as today this kind of type was entirely foreign to the layman and

FALSE SHEKEL MEDALS



Various styles of false shekels. All have smoke curling out of an incense burner, and the budding rod of the high priest Aaron. Modern square Hebrew is used instead of the ancient Hebrew inscriptions found on genuine Jewish shekels (66-70 AD).

but slightly familiar to theologians, while the modern Hebraic script was at least recognizable to the Christian layman, even though most of them could not read it. In any case the expert supervision over their production is noticeable in early shekel medals through the correctness of their lettering, in which the later stampings show a harmful lack of expertness. Many of the later shekel medals evince incorrect, partly defective or corrupt inscriptions with the partial use of fantastic and meaningless letters.



The first (?) false shekel, dated 1584 below the chalice.

The great number of the various types of shekel medals is noteworthy. This however is not strange when one considers that these shekel medals, as in Görlitz, were sold as memorial tokens of pilgrimage in the pilgrimage

chapels. In earlier times such places of pilgrimage were visited very often, and likewise there was a great demand for small souvenirs which the pilgrims brought back for themselves and their families. No less than 52,412 pilgrimage medals are reported to have been made between 1519 and 1522 and sold in Regensburg; and Father Odilo Ringholz claims that on the Angel's Consecration Festival of Einsiedeln in 1466, within fourteen days, 130,000 such "Zaichen" (tokens) were sold at two pfennig apiece. On considering such numbers one is no longer astonished over the great number of shekel medals placed in circulation by church institutions.

That the Jews actually effected the minting of these shekel medals has, until now, not been proven. But Jews

in Russia and Galicia acquired and used them for various purposes, for instance, as a symbol of the money to be paid a Cohen upon the redemption of the oldest son; in analogy to the precept in IV Moses XVIII, 16 he received five of these shekels which were then repurchased from him with current coin. In several Eastern European countries, a shekel medal was placed on the collection plate which, at certain times, e.g. at Purim, was set up in the ante-room of the synagogue to encourage people to leave small gifts for the poor of the community. Finally, the fact that some shekel medals appear with a loop hole shows that they were worn as ornaments or amulets, whether by Jews or Christians is open to discussion.

Tokens Mark 'Colony That Became Town'

By Samuel Matalon

Collectors, when coming across a coin, bank note or token bearing the denomination "2", naturally ask themselves, "What about the "1"?"

This is quite reasonable, though not always justified. Speaking of Israeli or Palestinian tokens, a negative example appears immediately — the aluminum transportation token of two prutot of Drom or Darom Yehuda which does not have a known one pruta companion.

Petach Tiqva, or Petah Tikva, was known as the "colony that became a town." It is located about 10 miles northeast of Tel Aviv and about eight miles north of Lod International airport. For many years this colony was represented with a sole metal token bearing the denomination "2." The token itself, very primitive, very thin, made of tin, is quite scarce. In the past few years, only about 20 of these tokens have appeared.

The question which continually arose



Hebrew letters, reading from right, are Pe Tav, standing for Petach Tiqva, and the numeral 1, for one pruta. Petach Tiqva was "the colony that became a town." (Illustration double size)

in my mind was, "Is this the sole metal representative of Petach Tiqva?"

The newly found one pruta piece measures 17 millimeters in diameter and weighs half a gram. It is made of tin similar to the two prutot piece, is just as primitive, but a welcome find!

Dear Members

Enclosed with this issue of the SHEKEL is a dues statement and return envelope. We urgently request that you renew your subscription to A.I.N.A. as soon as possible. The largest bulk of our operating revenue is derived from membership dues.

By sending in your renewal promptly, we will be able to feed your renewal membership into the computer. This in turn will issue out the mailing labels used to send the copy of the SHEKEL to you.

While your next issue of the SHEKEL will not arrive at your home until the beginning or middle of January, it goes without saying that it is necessary to start preparations much before.

So while it is fresh in your minds now, won't you send your renewal check to the office.

Thank You

THE MONEY CHANGERS

by Mel Wacks

Matthew indicates that Jesus went into the temple of God and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple. (Matthew 21:13). This same event is paraphrased in Mark, where another detail is added: And he would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple (Mark 11:16). The third reference to this event is contained in John where greater insight is given, indicating that it was Passover and that Jesus drove them all (those that sold oxen and sheep and doves and the changers of money) out of the temple. Here the temple is not called a den of thieves, but a house of merchandise.

Madden misses the point when he states that "the system pursued by the money changers in the Temple must have been a vicious one," for it was the OVERALL commercialization — even the carrying of a vessel — that so upset Jesus.

It was for the Passover holiday that Jews traveled from all parts of Judaea and surrounding countries to Jerusalem. But as with any large synagogue or church today, there was a good deal of socializing and business attached to the great gathering around the Jerusalem Temple. Actually the Temple was laid out to accommodate such secular gatherings — in the Lower Court (Court of Gentiles). It was this large court, which was outside and adjacent to the Temple proper, that the tables of the money changers were located.

The money changers served the role of banks. They changed the silver and other coins brought to them into "coin of the realm," especially for payment of the Temple Tax. The fee for this service was fixed between four per cent and eight per cent and was called a KOLBAN, possibly derived from the Greek word for a small coin. They also detected false coins.

To lend money to a fellow Israelite for interest was strictly forbidden, but to lend to a stranger was permissible and appears to have been practiced during the Babylonian captivity, though it was considered an abomination. Money changers did pay interest on money left with them as can be seen in this quote from Matthew. Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

According to Rabbinic rules, the Temple Tax was collected from the 15th of Adar through the first of the following month, Nisan (approximately March). One day after Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers he watched the widow contribute her two mites to the Temple treasury, and two days after

that was the feast of the Passover which starts on the 14th of Nisan. If this chronology is correct then when Jesus encountered the money changers it was already past the deadline for collecting the Temple Tax and they must have just been performing their commercial func-

tions. If indeed, the money changers were there for the Temple Taxes then more than 12 days would have had to expire between the Biblical "money changers" and "widow's mite" episodes!

Reprinted from July
1975 World Coins.



Jesus chasing the money changers from the Temple is shown in this dramatic sketch taken from the Gustave Doré Illustrated Bible. Cited as one of the few recorded times that Jesus showed anger, it is pointed out that the offense occurred later than was necessary to serve those making sacrifices in the Temple, and merchandising was emphasized.

AMERICAN-ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AT JUNE 30, 1978

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash in banks — checking	\$ 9,879
— savings	142,368
Merchandise inventory (at cost)	48,307
Accounts receivable	952
Loan receivable — Greater N.Y. Coin Convention Ltd.	<u>2,384</u>

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS **\$203,890**

FIXED AND OTHER ASSETS

Furniture and equipment	\$18,417
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>5,114</u> 13,303
Security deposit — rent	1,422
Educational display and slide library	<u>6,825</u>

TOTAL FIXED AND OTHER ASSETS 21,550

TOTAL ASSETS \$225,440

LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$ 4,015
Taxes payable	<u>573</u>

TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES **\$ 4,588**

NET WORTH

Net Worth — July 1, 1977	220,289
Add: Net Profit For Period	<u>563</u>

TOTAL NET WORTH 220,852

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH \$225,440

HERBERT M. KNOPP
Certified Public Accountant

Future AINA Events

11th ANNUAL STUDY TOUR TO ISRAEL MARCH 8-22nd, 1979

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:

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- Extensive sightseeing program, plus services of English speaking guides.
- Full Israeli Breakfast and Dinner daily.
- Round trip transfer service between airports and hotels.
- Portage of luggage at airport and hotels.
- All entrance fees and tips to sites visited.
- Gratuities for services provided.
- Special meetings with numismatists. And more!



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